

REMARKS

In light of the above amendatory matter and remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

This amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-21 and 45-52 remain in this application. Claims 22-44 and 53-77 have been canceled.

The amendment filed May 23, 2006 and the amendment filed August 31, 2006 should be entered. As a result, the rejections of claims 3, 15 and 46 are satisfied; and all of the claims remaining in this application are in compliance with the requirements of 35 USC 112.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 14 and 45 are amended herein to recite that the signal processed by the first processing element is forwarded to the second processing element upon a request from said second processing element to said first processing element for said signal. This amendment makes explicit what had been implicitly recited in the claims, that the processing web operates in a “pull-type” arrangement, whereby data is supplied to a downstream element if the downstream element requests that data from the upstream element. That is, data is pulled downstream from the upstream element. See, for example, page 14, line 13 to page 15, line 2, page 17, lines 8-17 and page 18, lines 4-22 of the instant specification.

It is respectfully submitted that Rogers (U.S. Patent 5,497,500) and Zink (U.S. Patent 6,738,964) do not describe pull-type systems and, therefore, claims 1, 14 and 45 are patentably distinct over these references.

Claims 2-13 depend from claim 1; claims 15-21 depend from claim 14; and claims 46-52 depend from claim 45. Consequently, these dependent claims include all of the limitations recited by the respective claim from which they depend, namely, that the signal processed by the first processing element is forwarded to the second processing element upon a request from said second processing element to said first processing element for said signal. Therefore, the rejections of these dependent claims should be withdrawn for the reasons noted above.

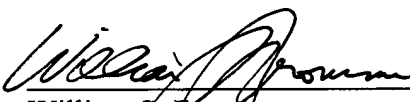
Applicants also refer to and repeat the arguments presented in the amendment filed May 23, 2006.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place claims 1-21 and 45-52 in condition for allowance, and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner is unable to issue the Notice of Allowance at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to discuss any further outstanding issues.

Early and favorable consideration are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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